HP3000 Re-hosting Project

Center for Information Services (CIS) for the Community and Technical Colleges

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Project Status

Hewlett Packard (HP) changed the project schedule in January 2005, but as noted in the last report, HP was falling behind that schedule also. The CIS Executive Board wrote to HP, outlining project delays and project management deficiencies. HP responded by transitioning in two new project managers with the capacity to re-plan the project and address the strategic and tactical issues that had been missing on the project.

The re-planning effort involves members of the CIS staff, HP India, and HP vendors, and defines new detail project tasks. HP delivered a draft of the new plan for CIS review and entry of CIS components of the new schedule. CIS is working to complete their portion of the schedule, and will communicate it to the campuses by June 23, 2005. While this re-planning effort is underway, CIS staff continues to work the project milestones outlined in the old plan. HP has developed new status documents, consisting of project management reports that should provide factual insight into project performance. HP is requiring use of defect reporting tools for all issues, bugs, and action items. The presidents of the colleges are fully apprised of the status of the project, the addition of HP's new resources to the project, and the re-planning effort that is underway.

Variances

• <u>Schedule:</u> While the success of the project is not an issue, the implementation date is a concern. The full impact of the delay will be unknown until the new schedule is complete.

The major causes of the schedule slippage are complications with the Financial Management System conversion, late delivery of vendor enhancements by the Financial Aid software vendor, the complexity of the new Microsoft Windows .Net platform, and the consolidation of all former HP3000 campus operations at CIS. HP's conversion subcontractor, Transoft, was not able to overcome these difficulties and lost significant time.

- <u>Budget/Cost:</u> HP is under a fixed priced, deliverables-based contract. Cost increases will be CIS internal costs. The delay in schedule requires colleges to continue HP3000 operations, which could represent a cost increase at the campus.
- <u>Scope:</u> Due to project schedule delay, the CIS has mandatory changes to the human resources/payroll system and the financial aid system that must be implemented by July 1, 2005. The old programs affected by the change will then have to be reconverted.

Issues

No issues are evident this early in the re-planning effort.

Staff have recommended that OIC continue the high level of participation and communication: Providing the community and technical college system confidence in the new schedule is critical, as their own college's conversion and training activities depend on a reliable schedule.

<u>Closely monitor schedule</u>: In order to minimize further delays, performance to schedule needs to be closely monitored in order to provide effective mitigation of deviations when they occur.

<u>Implement performance testing:</u> Since the colleges are moving to a central technical platform from 34 decentralized platforms, system performance testing should be conducted before beginning rollout on a broad scale.

<u>Utilize lessons learned from pilot colleges:</u> CIS and HP will include piloting the new system at three campuses before deploying to the remaining colleges. The remaining campuses have requested that their own conversion schedules not be decided until the pilot colleges' lessons learned can be used in their implementation scheduling.

<u>Update original investment plan:</u> ISB staff has requested that the CIS revisit the original project investment plan and present cost and schedule changes from the original plan.

Appear at the ISB: ISB staff has discussed with the CIS executive director and the CIS executive board the need to report to the ISB at the September ISB meeting to provide an update and appraisal of the project. The CIS executive director, and executive board chair and vice chair have agreed to appear.

Previous Agency Appearances Before the Board

October 9, 2002: The CIS came to the Board for project approval.